

1. (Twice Amended) A method for producing thin, foamed glass matrices (FGMs), comprising the steps of:

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- (a) preparing an initial mixture comprising at least one glass matrix-forming material and a solvent therefor;
 - (b) evaporating a proportion of the solvent from the mixture to obtain a syrup; and
 - (c) exposing the syrup to reduced pressure at a temperature that causes boiling of the syrup at said pressure, [resulting in formation of an FGM] to form a liquid foam; and
 - (d) solidifying the liquid foam to form a foamed glass matrix.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein carbohydrate is a chemically or enzymatically modified carbohydrate.

49. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising adding a substance to be preserved to the mixture before formation of the FGM wherein the glass matrix-forming material is a stabilizing polyol.

62. (Twice Amended) A method for preserving a substance within a thin, foamed glass matrix (FGM) comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing an initial mixture comprising at least one glass matrix-forming stabilizing polyol [material], a solvent therefor, and the substance to be preserved;
- (b) evaporating a proportion of the solvent from the mixture to obtain a syrup; and
- (c) exposing the syrup to a pressure and temperature that causes boiling of the syrup, [resulting in formation of an FGM] to form a liquid foam; and
- (d) solidifying the liquid foam to form a foamed glass matrix incorporating the substance to be preserved.

65. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a single dose of a substance, comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing an initial mixture comprising at least one glass matrix-forming stabilizing polyol [material], a solvent therefor, and the substance;
- (b) evaporating a proportion of the solvent from the mixture to obtain a syrup;

71. (Twice Amended) A thin, foamed glass matrix (FGM) [obtainable] obtained by the method of claim 1.

72. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising at least one substance preserved in an FGM, ~~[obtainable]~~ obtained by the method of claim 62, wherein step (c) is conducted at reduced pressure.

73. (Twice Amended) A reconstituted substance [obtainable] obtained by preserving the substance within an FGM according to claim 62 wherein step (c) is conducted at reduced pressure, and then contacting the FGM with sufficient solvent for the glass matrix forming material to dissolve the material.

75. (Twice Amended) A reconstituted single dose of a biological substance [obtainable] obtained by producing a single dose of a substance preserved within an FGM according to claim 65 wherein step (c) is conducted at reduced pressure, and then contacting the FGM with sufficient solvent for the glass matrix forming material to dissolve the material.

78. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising reducing residual moisture from the FGM formed in step [c] d).

80. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of trehalose, maltitol, lactitol, palatinit, [GPS] α -D-glucopyranosyl-1 \rightarrow 6-sorbitol, and [GPM] α -D-glucopyranosyl-1 \rightarrow 6-mannitol.

83. (Amended) The method according to claim 62, further comprising reducing residual moisture from the FGM formed in step [c] ~~d~~.

91. (Amended) A method for producing thin, foamed glass matrices (FGMs), comprising the steps of:

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- (a) preparing an initial mixture comprising at least one glass matrix-forming carbohydrate, a solvent therefor, and at least one foam-promoting additive which is a volatile salt or a salt that decomposes at reduced pressure to give a gaseous product;
- (b) evaporating a proportion of the solvent from the mixture to obtain a syrup;
- (c) exposing the syrup to a pressure and temperature that causes boiling of the syrup, [thereby forming an FGM] to form a liquid foam; and
- (d) solidifying the liquid foam to form a foamed glass matrix.

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93. (Amended) An FGM incorporating a substance to be preserved, formed according to the method of claim 91, wherein the glass matrix-forming material is a stabilizing polyol.

94. (Amended) A method for producing thin, foamed glass matrices (FGMs), comprising the steps of:

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- (a) preparing an initial mixture comprising at least one glass matrix-forming carbohydrate, carbohydrate alcohol or carbohydrate derivative, an aqueous solvent therefor, and a foam-promoting additive which is a volatile organic solvent;
- (b) evaporating a proportion of the aqueous and organic solvents from the mixture to obtain a syrup;
- (c) exposing the syrup to a pressure and temperature that causes boiling of the syrup, [thereby forming an FGM] to form a liquid foam; and
- (d) solidifying the liquid foam to form a foamed glass matrix.

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96. (Amended) A[n] thin, foamed glass matrix (FGM) incorporating a substance to be preserved, formed according to the method of claim 94.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended in light of the remarks made herein.